

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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TOM LYTHGOE, CHAIR

CHUCK NOTBOHM

KEN WEBER

**PROCEEDING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF MONTANA
March 7, 2006**

Present: Commissioners Lythgoe, Notbohm and Weber; Craig Doolittle, County Sheriff; Harold Stepper, County Planner; Mike Ruppert, Boyd Andrew; Jan Anderson, *Boulder Monitor/Jefferson County Courier*

MINUTES

Commissioner Weber moved to approve the minutes of January 31st. Commissioner Lythgoe seconded. The motion carried.

Commissioner Lythgoe moved to approve the February 7 minutes. Commissioner Weber seconded. The motion carried.

Commissioner Lythgoe moved to approve the February 21 minutes. Commissioner Notbohm seconded. The motion carried.

REPORTS

Receipt of February expense and revenue reports from the Clerk and Recorder.

Harold Stepper, County Planner, presented the mylars for the transfer of south campus land to the county for the meth treatment facility.

CALENDAR REVIEW

- 3/08 Meeting to discuss potential annexation - 10:00
- Meeting to discuss bonding for RMD - 12:30
- JLDC - 2:00
- Public hearing re: infrastructure study - Montana City - 6:00
- 3/09 Meet with Peter Bogy and Tom Harrington - Whitehall - 8:00
- Tri-Co Fire - Helena - 9:00
- Meet with Tim Burton to discuss annexation - Helena - 1:30
- Elkhorn Working Group - 3:00
- 3/13 Meet with MDT re: road name Colonial/Capital/Highway 282 - 3:00
- 3/14 Meet with Mike Waite of Denny Rehberg's office - 11:00

March 7, 2006 minutes.wpd

COMMISSION REPORTS

FOREST SERVICE LANDS

Commissioner Notbohm stated that he recently spoke with Gary Howard of the Forest Service regarding Forest Service lands for sale. Gary stated that there are some lands proposed for sale; he has all of the information in his office, and the Commission is welcome to stop in and review it. The proposal is for massive sales. Commissioner Weber noted that you can no longer get cabin rentals locally; you now have to go on-line, making a local office unnecessary.

GOLDEN SUNLIGHT MINE

Commissioner Lythgoe reported that he met with Peter Bogy Wednesday regarding an amicus brief. They still have no idea what is happening regarding the backfill issue. They discussed if Peter is the right person to prepare the brief, if it is needed.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Lythgoe reported that the Commissioners met with Rick Hotaling of the BLM, and he thought it was an excellent meeting. There are options that Jefferson County has available, and the BLM is willing to work with the County on the road issues. It will take some time, and there is no blanket approach, but they are open to the possibility of working together. They are willing to talk and to turn over control of some roads. Commissioner Weber stated that he agrees that it was a productive meeting, and he likes working with Rick. Commissioner Notbohm stated that he feels the Commission needs to claim that all of the roads are ours, rather than go road by road. Commissioner Lythgoe stated that the BLM will not go for that. Rick made it clear that the County will need to follow the process.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Commissioner Weber reported that he met with Peter Bogy, Tom Harrington and staff from Headwaters RC&D regarding several loans. Peter has been very busy, only having been home 15 days since Thanksgiving. He has been very busy with the Helena Symphony. Commissioner Lythgoe stated that when he spoke with Peter, he was raring to go, as the Symphony will be wrapping up soon.

INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY

Commissioner Weber reported that the Commissioners took part in a conference call with Great West Engineering and Mae Nan Ellingson regarding bonding for the infrastructure study.

NORTH END FRONTAGE ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY PURCHASE

Commissioner Notbohm stated that one concern he has regarding the proposed frontage road is the money committed by Jefferson County. He would feel better if they had a letter of commitment from MDT. Commissioner Lythgoe stated that he spoke by phone with Jim Curry, assistant to the Director at MDT recently, and got a commitment to repay half of the right-of-way on one parcel of land that was appraised at \$50,000. Commissioner Notbohm reiterated that he would feel better with a written commitment. Commissioner Lythgoe stated that he made the

request for repayment to Mr. Curry and was assured that it will be forthcoming. Commissioner Notbohm restated that he feels it is always best to have something in writing.

SPEED STUDY

Commissioner Weber stated that he left a message for Lee Alt telling them to proceed with the speed study.

ITEMS FOR COMMISSIONERS ACTION OR REVIEW

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON COUNTY'S OWNERSHIP OF THE ELKHORN CEMETERY

Commissioner Notbohm stated that he wants to declare this County property, as this has been dragging out for years. He talked to Gary Howard with the Forest Service the previous day, and Gary stated that everything needed for the property transfer has been done in both his office and the national Forest Service. The transfer was put as a rider of a transportation bill, and is being held up in Senator Burns' office. It is now going to have a bill of its own. Commissioner Notbohm stated that he also spoke with Terry Sexton about a year ago and asked what it would take to get the transfer completed; Terry indicated that it would be between \$1000 and \$2000 an acre. Commissioner Lythgoe stated that the transfer is underway. Commissioner Notbohm replied supposedly; but if it doesn't come through soon, he suggests that the Commission write a letter.

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON PUTTING SPECIAL MOTOR VEHICLE OPTION TAX ON THE JUNE BALLOT

Commissioner Lythgoe noted that this was discussed at that morning's road meeting, and asked if more discussion is needed. Commissioner Notbohm stated that he would like more definite figures. It was a little alarming to him, as he didn't remember it generating so much money. Commissioner Weber moved to consider putting the special option tax on the June ballot. Commissioner Lythgoe seconded. Craig stated that he agrees with Commissioner Notbohm, they need to be up-front with the voters about how much this is going to cost them and what the money will be used for. The motion carried.

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON SHERIFF'S REQUEST TO HIRE ADDITIONAL DEPUTY

Craig Doolittle, Sheriff, stated that what he is proposing will cost no money at this point in time. In August 2005, he appointed one of his deputies to a drug task force, and his salary is reimbursed to the County quarterly. The original intent was to hire a deputy to replace him immediately, with a savings of \$5000. However, the position was never filled, as part of the funding for the drug task force is being cut, things are up in the air, and he didn't want to hire someone for only three months. There is a vacancy savings of \$35,000 as of April 1, and he would like to transfer \$31,000 of that into capital outlay to purchase a new 4-wheel drive, with everything included.

Craig stated that the position he is requesting is a Whitehall position, partially due to growth in the Whitehall area, and partially to save wear and tear on vehicles. The County would still be saving money hiring this position. What he is asking for is a transfer for a vehicle purchase, and a guarantee that the deputy position will still be there if the Board of Crime Control decides not

to continue to hard-match all on the task force. He noted that the task force position costs absolutely nothing until the Burns grant runs out or the two-year agreement is over. He also asked the Commissioner to keep in mind that this is not a new position, but getting back a position that was cut.

Commissioner Weber moved to give Craig the spending authority to move \$31,000 from salary to capital outlay and also to approve the hiring of a deputy to begin at or after April 1. Commissioner Lythgoe seconded. Commissioner Notbohm asked if there is a sharing of funds when the task force make an arrest. Craig stated that if the task force is involved, the money goes into an account earmarked for Jefferson County. This helps with the grant match. The motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED

ATTEST:

BONNIE RAMEY
CLERK AND RECORDER

TOMAS E. LYTHGOE, CHAIR

CHUCK NOTBOHM, COMMISSIONER

KEN WEBER, COMMISSIONER